GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:345
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
UPDATING OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES
HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research and Development Wing of the ordnance units of the country is very poor and outdated;

(b) whether due to inefficient R&D of ordnance units, country had to import vital ammunitions at a very heavy cost during 1992-93 to 1997-98; and

(c) if so, whether the Government are taking adequate steps to clear this bottleneck without any further delay?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 345 FOR 17.8.2000

The Research & Development (R&D) activity of Ordnance Factories is restricted to product and process improvement only. The Research & Development (R&D) in the sphere of arms, ammunition and equipment is the responsibility of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). Fifteen types of ammunition developed by DRDO since 1992-93 have been productionised by Ordnance Factories. In addition, Ordnance Factories also obtain technology from abroad along with induction of new ammunition. Once productionised, these ammunitions are not normally imported. Imports take place during induction into service of new generation ammunition not produced indigenously or for surge requirement in excess of Ordnance Factories' capacity. The total quantum of imports of ammunition by the Army during 1992-93 to 1997-98 was approximately 11% of Army's total offtake.